



State of California

Employment Training Panel

Arnold Schwarzenegger, Governor

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Employment Training Panel Awards \$49,400 to San Francisco's Renaissance Entrepreneurship Center

SACRAMENTO – The California Labor and Workforce Development Agency's Employment Training Panel (ETP) at its meeting in San Francisco recently approved a \$49,400 contract with the Renaissance Entrepreneurship Center (Center) to train 50 owners of small companies in business management skills to help their businesses grow and thrive in San Francisco.

The Center's training program will focus on developing essential business skills and completing a comprehensive business plan focused on marketing, finance or operations. The owners of these micro-enterprises will receive an intensive 80-hour course in business planning provided at either the Center's training facility south of Market Street or the Bayview/Hunters Point training center.

"For over two decades, Renaissance Entrepreneurship Center has been working to increase entrepreneurial opportunities for economically diverse persons throughout the San Francisco Bay Area," said Sharon Miller, CEO of the Renaissance Center. "ETP training funds will assist us in meeting our goals to help individuals achieve financial self-sufficiency and to strengthen underserved communities."

Since 1985, the Center, a non-profit micro-enterprise development organization, has been working to increase entrepreneurial opportunities for economically diverse persons throughout the San Francisco Bay Area. Approximately 1,050 women and men, representing the social, cultural, economic and educational diversity of the Bay area, utilize the Center's services on an annual basis. These services include small business training classes, support services and access to networks and resources, which foster creation of sustainable new businesses and new jobs.

"The Center's training program will help 50 small business owners acquire critical business skills needed to survive in San Francisco's competitive marketplace," said Michael Saragosa, ETP Executive Director. "This type of program is vital to California's efforts to promote job growth, and supports Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's commitment to keep our business climate strong."

For more information regarding the Renaissance Center, contact Sharon Miller at 415-541-8580, ext. 243.

ETP is a business and labor supported state agency that assists employers in strengthening their competitive edge by providing funds to partially off-set the costs of job skills training that is necessary to maintain high-performance workplaces. California's ETP is a performance-based program, providing funds for trainees who successfully complete approved training programs and are retained in well-paying jobs for a specific period of time.

The program is funded by the Employment Training Tax paid by California employers, and targets firms threatened by out-of-state and international competition. Since its inception in 1983, the ETP program has provided over \$1 billion to train more than 665,000 workers in over 65,000 California companies. Employers match training funds awarded through ETP contracts, making these projects true public-private partnerships.

To view copies of the proposals considered by the Panel at its most recent meeting, visit the ETP website at <http://www.etp.ca.gov/packet.cfm>. For more information about the ETP program, please visit www.etp.ca.gov, or call 916-327-5261.

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